

PEKING (Agencies) — China announced the arrests of more than 100 persons in connection with the recent student movement. Four student leaders and one night-shift worker were arrested.



Qasem high
AMMAN (LT) — Deputy

Highlights Casablanca achievements

Rafsanjani caps Soviet visit with sermon in Baku

Kazakh unrest continues

and economic problems fuelling rioting in a desert town, but more disturbances were reported.

TASS said Kazakhstan's council of ministers set up a commission to outline improvements for Novy Uzen, a town of 56,000 people where arson and other attacks began last weekend.

At the same time, Pravda reported that six people tried to seize a gas compressor station, and many workers are staying away from their jobs as the fear of further rioting grips the town.

The Communist Party daily said only a quarter of the factory

rioting. Only a bakery and food shops worked normally, Pravda said.

The rioters demand that all members of Caucasus ethnic groups be evicted from Novy Uzen. More than one-third of the population is from the Caucasus. Native Kazakhs complain the Caucasus settlers dominate the oil industry jobs on which the town depends and receive preferential treatment in housing and other benefits.

The rioters also complain the settlers have set up private businesses, cooperatives, that sell

improvements, TASS said cooperatives found guilty of abuses would be closed. It did not detail what other measures would be taken, but quoted Deputy Premier Otktyabr 1. Zheltikov as saying that rapid development of the oil and gas industry had led to shortages of housing and food in Novy Uzen. Speculation of scarce goods and unfair distribution of apartments began, he said.

Pravda said one group carrying firearms and metal bars had been detained after trying to seize control of a gas pumping station in the town of Novy Uzen.

There are attacks on transport installations and calls to carry out sabotage," Pravda said.

"Yesterday only one large bakery and food shops were open. Despite the efforts of party and local government officials, workers are still in a feverish mood. Again only one quarter of workers and officials were at their jobs."

Pravda quoted a lone bus driver at a depot, T. Angdaliev, as saying groups had threatened workers if they turned up for work.

Uzbekistan's Communist Party

TASS said Rafik N. Nishanov was relieved as Uzbek party first secretary because he had been appointed head of one of two chambers of the recently revamped supreme Soviet legislature in Moscow. Nishanov heads the Soviet of nationalities, which reviews problems of the Soviet Union's more than 100 national groups.

The Uzbek party's central committee, meeting in the republican capital Tashkent, elected Islam A. Karimov, a regional party chief in the republic, to replace Nishanov, TASS reported.

Hoss assails militias; Aoun seeks attention

BEIRUT (AP) — Salim Al Hoss, the head of the civilian cabinet in Lebanon's dual government, made his strongest attack ever on militia leaders Friday while blaming them for abducting the civil servant in charge of grain and sugar imports.

His blast came as rival gunners skirmished with howitzers in Beirut and army commander Michel Aoun was calling for protests by Lebanese worldwide to focus attention on the country's problems.

Also Friday, Israeli-allied militiamen of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia Friday clashed with guerrillas of the Party of God in the eastern Bekaa Valley. Police said no casualties were immediately reported.

Prime Minister Hoss did not name the militias he believes responsible for the Wednesday kidnapping of Raja Bsat.

A previously unknown group, calling itself Father of the Poor, has claimed abducting Bsat in the west Beirut Wednesday to protest a bread shortage.

Bsat headed the grain and sugar department, in charge of imports, in the civilian cabinet's Economy Ministry.

Hoss blamed the shortages in vital supplies on "leaders who have become merchants."

He was apparently referring to the leaders of the various militias who have been recently accused of making astronomical profits from suspicious business deals.

The unarmed population, politicians who do not belong to militia factions and moderate government leaders have been privately complaining recently that warlords were using their power to strike illegal business deals.

They claim militia leaders blast power poles and block fuel supplies to power stations to force the population to purchase auxiliary generators imported by them or by their partners.

Hoss, in a statement broadcast by local radio stations, accused such militias of kidnapping Bsat to "Cover up for their crimes."

Hoss, who does not have a political party or a militia, said he was "aware of the population's plight," including the brutality of illegal taxation by militias. He did not offer any solutions, however.

The various militias, in addition to collecting customs dues in their respective areas of influence.

A police spokesman said gunners deployed in west Beirut, fired about 20 howitzer shells into

the coastline north of Beirut throughout the day to maintain a blockade of Aoun-controlled ports.

The spokesman, who cannot be named in line with standing rules, said the 130-mm Soviet-designed shells exploded around the ports of Jounieh and Byblos to prevent Aoun from importing war material by sea.

Aoun's gunners, deployed in the 800-square-kilometre enclave responded with 155-mm howitzers, the spokesman said.

He said five howitzer shells fired by Aoun's gunners exploded around artillery batteries along west Beirut's seaside boulevard.

Witnesses, speaking on condition of anonymity, said motorists deserted their vehicles and sought refuge in entrances to buildings when a howitzer shell exploded on the main highway in the Ras Beirut district at 10:30 a.m. (0730 GMT).

One witness said the shell explosion "inflicted damage on some cars, but no casualties were observed."

"Those who took cover in nearby buildings, rushed back to their cars a few minutes after the shell exploded and sped away," he added.

The current round of violence broke out March 8, pitting Aoun's 20,000 army units against Syrian and allied forces.

By police count, 373 people have been killed and 1,457 wounded in the 14-week confrontation that continued despite repeated calls by Arab leaders for a ceasefire.

The confrontation broke out two days after Aoun blockaded illegal ports run by militias south of Beirut for denying the ailing state treasury about \$100 million in customs dues annually.

Syrian and allied forces retaliated by besieging the Aoun enclave, home for about one million people.

Aoun, addressing a news conference at his bomb-ravaged presidential palace in the suburb of Baabda, protested what he termed "the silence practiced by the world regarding the killing of Lebanon."

He called on "the Lebanese and their friends in the world to stage sit-ins near the U.S. and Soviet embassies all over the world as of Monday."

The move, he said, aims at pressuring Syria into lifting its blockade of the enclave and accepting a ceasefire in the confrontation with Aoun's troops.



With the destruction by artillery fire of the main fuel depot at Dora in east Beirut, the forces of army commander Michel Aoun have been

facing an acute shortage of fuel in the face of a blockade by rival militias of ports controlled by Aoun.

Baker reaffirms U.S. support for Israeli plan

WASHINGTON (USIA) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, responding to questions during a House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee meeting,

has reiterated U.S. support for Israel's proposal for elections in the occupied territories. At the same time, he stressed the need for direct Israeli-Palestinian talks rather than an international conference.

"We have tried to discourage the Soviets and member countries of the European Community from pressing forward at this time for an international conference," because "that might preempt more promising opportunities," he said.

In last week's bilateral working group on the Middle East, he said, the United States emphasized to the Soviets that their proposal for an international conference would "divert attention away from engaging Israelis and

Palestinians directly." He said the point was made that world attention should be kept "riveted on changing the situation on the ground" and getting to elections.

However, he repeated the U.S. position that "an international conference, properly structured and at the appropriate time, could usefully advance the peace process."

Other nations that had been totally committed to the concept of an "immediate recourse" to an international conference sponsored by the permanent U.N. Security Council members, the secretary noted, "are now saying 'let's see if we can make this (Israeli) election process work.'"

On the subject of an administrative request to Congress for permission to proceed with arms sales to Saudi Arabia, the secretary said these "proposals are quite justifiable." He called for close consultations with Congress

on the matter. "We have interests with moderate Arab states that are quite important to the United States, and quite important to Israel," the secretary said.

On another matter, while he had no direct comments on the visit of Iranian Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani to Moscow and a reported possible arms deal between Iran and the Soviet Union, Baker noted that the United States had discussed with the Soviets the U.S. concerns about the transfer of weapons and the proliferation of missile and chemical weapons technology.

During his May talks in Moscow, Baker said the two sides specifically discussed Iran and "the reluctance of the Soviet Union to condemn" the Iranian call for the assassination of Americans.

He said that U.S. policy towards Iran "has to be guided by

developments" there and by the Iranians' approach to the United States and the free world, "not just by what happens in the USSR-Iran relationship."

"We don't know yet... exactly what course the developments in Iran will take, following the death of the Ayatollah Khomeini," he pointed out. "We do know that Iran has not as yet renounced terrorism," nor taken action "leading to the likely release" of the American hostages in Lebanon, "or at least demonstrating their willingness to use their influence" with the hostage takers.

"There are many things that, in our view, Iran needs to do before there can be a significant improvement" in relations, Baker said. The United States should be "receptive" to such steps, he continued, "provided they are willing to take the requisite steps to improve relations."

Debate rekindled over Israeli reliance on Palestinian workers

By Marjorie Olster
The Associated Press

PETAH TIKVA — A transit camp built to keep Palestinian day labourers out of the streets has triggered an outcry from some Israelis who see it as a form of segregation and discrimination.

After 18 months of clashes between Palestinian protesters and government soldiers in the occupied territories, anti-Arab sentiments are growing among Israelis, rekindling a debate over the country's reliance on Palestinians for manual labour.

The "holding area" in Petah Tikva and a move by an Israeli settlement to make Arab labourers wear "alien worker" badges are symbols of the growing segregation between Jews and Arabs, said Moshe Semyonov, a sociologist at Tel Aviv University.

"People on both ends of the political spectrum are against depending on Arabs — one out of antagonism, the other for humanitarian or moral reasons," said Semyonov, a specialist in labour relations.

"Temporary prison"

The town council in Petah Tikva, a city of 150,000 located 10 kilometres east of Tel Aviv, recently approved using the "holding area" for Arab workers.

Some Israeli newspapers criticised the move and said the holding area amounted to a

"temporary prison."

The original plan called for a fenced-in holding pen where Arab workers would be required to show their identity cards and wait to be hired by Jewish employers.

But after the public outcry, the town revised the plans, doing away with the fence and dropping the idea of forcing workers to wait in the camp. The shelters now consist of metal frames with plastic roofs, three park benches and a portable toilet.

The Arab labourers who come to Petah Tikva at dawn from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip have customarily waited for jobs at an intersection about 100 metres from the shelter.

The labourers, who work as street cleaners, garbage collectors, furniture movers, painters and in catering factories, said they object to the shelters.

"It is like a prison. None of the workers want to go to the shelters," said Sugi, a worker in his 40s from the West Bank city of Nablus.

Another worker, Faisal, in his 20s, said he feared labourers would be harassed by the police or targeted for violent attacks by Jewish extremists if they waited in the shelters.

"People are afraid to go to the shelter. They are afraid of the police or of citizens here who might plant bombs or

shoot guns at us," he said.

Both refused to give their last names, fearing reprisals.

Avraham Oren, a Petah Tikva town council member who opposes the holding area, said it would probably never be used because of the controversy surrounding it.

"This idea that it is possible to put people in pens is like segregation of the races," he said.

But council spokesman Shuki Yelin defended the shelters, saying they were built to ease the concern of Jewish residents.

"We built it because... many Jewish citizens protested and sent petitions, saying they are suffering because of the presence of the Arabs near their houses," Yelin said. "It's not racist. We know we are criticised, but it's not a jail. We don't force them to go. It's an open place."

In other Israeli towns, officials have suggested barring Arab labourers altogether or tightening controls over the workers.

Such proposals come at a time of rising Israeli frustration over the continuing uprising in the occupied territories and right-wing calls for military repression.

Actions elsewhere

In the West Bank settlement of Ariel, officials backed down

from a plan to make Arabs wear tags labelling them "alien workers" after critics compared them to the yellow stars of David that Jews were forced to wear in Nazi Germany.

In Naharia, a town near the Lebanese border, the Moroccan-born Mayor of Gabi Sabagh last month called on Jewish residents to stop selling and renting real estate to Arabs.

The mayor of the southern Israeli town of Ashdod, Avi Zilker, barred all Arab workers temporarily after two soldiers disappeared. One of the soldiers, Avi Saportas, was found dead. Security forces said they believed Islamic extremists killed him.

Israelis are torn between dependence on Arab workers, who make about half the wages of Israeli labourers, and "guilt" over exploiting them, said Professor Ephraim Yuchtman-Yaar, a social psychologist at Tel Aviv University.

"People recognise the labour is vital for the Israeli economy. They are doing low-status jobs that Israelis prefer not to do," Yaar said.

"But morally, many Israelis feel the Arabs should be treated equally to Jewish workers with the same fringe benefits and general conditions," he said. "Because they are not, it is exploitation and should be denounced."

NAAA honours Jordan's efforts in U.S.-PLO talks

WASHINGTON (Petra) — The National Association for Arab Americans (NAAA) has given awards to representatives of Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Sweden in appreciation of their countries' contributions towards initiating and pushing the Palestinian-American dialogue.

Addressing the closing session of the 17th annual conference of the NAAA, Alfred Shihab, president of NAAA, voiced the Arab-Americans' appreciation of the intense efforts made by these countries to initiate the dialogue between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the U.S.

The dialogue, he said, is an advanced step on the path of establishing peace and achieving a comprehensive peaceful settlement in the region.

The association's ex-president Peter Tannous, paid tribute to Jordan's support of the PLO and noted its efforts in winning the PLO international status and bringing about the declaration of

the State of Palestine. Tannous said Jordan had played an effective and essential role in initiating the U.S.-PLO dialogue and noted the unique status His Majesty King Hussein enjoys among Arab-Americans because of his honourable stands on the Palestine question, the Lebanese crisis and the Iran-Iraq war.

At the conclusion of its three-day meetings in Washington, the NAAA voiced its full support for the Palestinian uprising and for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

In its final communique, the association denounced Israeli oppressive measures against the Palestinian people and appealed to the American Education Department and educational organisations and universities to intervene with the Israeli authorities and to exercise pressure on them to ensure the reopening of the schools and universities in the occupied territories.

Iraq dissolves special corps of armed forces

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq has dissolved an army corps that fought against Iran during the eight-year Gulf war, the army daily Al Qadisiya reported Thursday.

The paper said that the First Special Army Corps was dissolved and the decision to discharge the soldiers from its three divisions officially announced Wednesday.

The corps was the last to be formed by the Iraqis during the war and was composed mainly of about 20,000 veteran officers and servicemen.

It was set up in June 1986, only four months after Iran took the southern Fao Peninsula after a monthlong battle.

The corps was posted at the central sector of the 1,800-kilometre front and was assigned to defend the city of Kut.

The daily said a military parade was held in Kut Wednesday to hand over responsibility for the area to the 2nd and 4th army corps.

Military experts noted that the corps was formed because Iraq, with less than 16 million people, was fighting Iran with a popula-

tion of more than 50 million.

Iraq has discharged thousands of servicemen since the cease-fire in the war took effect in August, but the discharged peace talks have kept hundreds of thousands more deployed at border.

A United Nations peacekeeping force patrols a buffer zone between the two sides.

The army stands at 1.5 million men.

Officials have said more soldiers are to be discharged July 1 in the Abid Said area.

Those to be discharged are Iraqis born in 1950 and 1951. They will be followed by younger soldiers in a timetable prepared to discharge all Iraqis who took part in the war.

Iraqi officials said dissolving the brigade was another sign of the desire for peace with its neighbour.

United Nations-sponsored peace talks deadlocked as soon as they started last August over numerous issues including withdrawal of troops to international borders, control over the Shatt Al Arab waterway and exchange of prisoners of war.

Son of Shah predicts youth-led revolt in Iran

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The son of the former Shah of Iran has predicted that Iranian youth would spearhead an eventual mass uprising against the Islamic regime.

Reza Pahlavi, addressing the New York Council on Foreign Relations, said the youth of Iran were powerless to shape their own destiny and would have no alternative but to rise.

He said they would be backed by religious leaders and the armed forces.

He said Ali Khamenei, Iran's new spiritual leader after the death of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini June 3, was a "third-ranking" religious figure who did not have the support of the majority of Iranian citizens.

He also suggested that attempts by Speaker of Parliament Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani to normalise relations with the outside world or reassure the private sector in Iran would further deepen rifts in the fundamentalist Islamic regime.

Pahlavi, whose father Mohammad Reza was deposed in 1979 by the revolution led by Khomeini, admonished Western governments not to remain insensitive to

alleged repression and violations of human rights in Iran.

Iran's foreign minister and Thursday several countries had recently tried to mediate between Tehran and Washington, but Iran rejected all these attempts.

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, in an interview published Thursday, said Iran was interested in good relations with countries only on basis of Khomeini's principles and without compromising its independence.

"Several countries had approached us for some kind of mediation with the United States. But we reject that as the Islamic Republic in Iran has never accepted such mediations," Velayati told Dubai-based Arabic newspaper Al Bayan.

Velayati refused to give names of the countries which approached Tehran for mediation nor to elaborate on relations with Washington, said the paper.

"Our foreign policy will follow the approach of Imam Khomeini, which allows us, in the light of Islamic principles and national independence, to establish good relations with other countries," Velayati said.

IAEA chief calls for rebuilding of Iran plant

NICOSIA (AP) — The secretary-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has called for the completion of an unfinished nuclear power plant heavily damaged by air attacks during the Gulf war, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Friday.

IRNA said Secretary-General Hans Blix deplored the idea that the plant near the southern port of Bushehr should be abandoned unfinished.

The agency said Thursday that on arrival at Bushehr Blix said that the Vienna-based IAEA was prepared to cooperate with Iran in estimating "the technical and economic damage" the Iraqi attacks inflicted.

IRNA said Blix was heading a delegation of senior officials of the United Nations-affiliated organisation.

The team flew to Tehran

Wednesday on a weeklong visit amid reports Tehran was trying to reactivate its nuclear energy programme since a ceasefire halted the Iran-Iraq war last August.

He was expected to meet with Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation Director Reza Amrohalli and other Iranian officials.

The Iranian agency quoted Blix as saying Wednesday that his agency and Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation had cooperated on projects in recent years.

IRNA said he voiced the hope that "suitable grounds" could be found for "mutual cooperation in the future."

But IAEA spokesman James Dalgleish said in a telephone interview from Vienna that Blix's visit was "primarily diplomatic and there is no specific purpose, such as revitalising Iran's nuclear facilities."

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

16:18 'Aar

19:49 Maghre

21:24 'Isha

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran

15:45 Programme review

15:55 Children programme

17:05 Educational programme

17:30 The Friends

18:00 News summary

18:05 Message from Iraq

18:15 A play by Shakespeare

19:15 Local programme

19:40 Programme review

20:00 News in Arabic

21:30 Local programme

22:30 News in English

23:10 Play continued

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Couillies

19:00 News in French

19:15 Documentary

19:30 News in Hebrew

19:45 Natural Phenomena

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Growing Pains

21:00 Alfred Hitchcock presents

21:30 Saturday Variety Show

22:00 News in English

22:30 Feature film: "Steel Town"

PRAYER TIMES

05:51 Fajr

06:36 (Sunrise) Dhuh

12:38 Dhuhr

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetish, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrassanta Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 626543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 685326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A slight drop in temperature is expected and winds will be westerly moderate freshening at times. In

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

	Min./max. temp.
Amman	17 / 30
Aqaba	24 / 38
Deserts	18 / 35
Jordan Valley	21 / 36

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32, Aqaba 44. Humidity readings: Amman 28 per cent, Aqaba 47 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Adnan Zaghout	741391
Dr. Mohammad Al 'Awad	625778
Dr. Fikher Al Baloisi	636661
Dr. Hani Haddadin	77751
First pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asena pharmacy	657035
Nijmeh pharmacy	62262
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660

IRBID: ()
Dr. Anjad 'Obaidat (985238)
Al Sharah' pharmacy

ZARQA:

Dr. Yousef 'Awad	994676
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence - Immediate	
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891236
Blood Bank	77512
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	663690
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information	
(Director assistance)	121
Overseas Centre	101230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	625101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	714111
Water Authority	660100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815161

Electric Power

Company	636381
RJ Flight Information Unit	08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport	08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalid Hospital, J. Amn	644281/82
Rajkhat Information Unit	661712
Majal Amman Maternity	642362
Jabal Anjar, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Munasher Hospital	662727/9
The Islamic, Abdali	665127/28
Al-Abul, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Mubajraeen	777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775111/12
Army, Marka	897611/5
Queen Alia Hospital	50724050
Amal Hospital	674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)981073
Rajkhat Hospital	(09)968732

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital	(02)275555
Grace Catholic Hospital	(02)272725
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital	(02)247100

AMMAN:

Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111
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FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel: (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:30	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
10:00	Damascus (RJ)
10:15	Aqaba (RJ)
10:20	New Delhi (RJ)
10:30	Cairo (RJ)
10:35	Dhahran (RJ)
10:40	Kuwait (RJ)
10:45	Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
10:55	Athens, Dhahran (RJ)
13:00	Jeddah (add.) (RJ)
16:45	New York, Montreal (RJ)
17:00	Kuwait (add.) (RJ)
17:20	Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
17:45	Cairo (RJ)

Queen visits children's exhibition

AMMAN — Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday visited the children's drawing exhibition, organised by Al Sanafat Elementary School, to mark the Great Arab Revolt and the Army Day. On display at the exhibition, which was held at the Royal Cultural Centre, are 100 drawings by school children aged between 3 and 9 years. Queen Noor was briefed on the drawings by the students themselves. The Queen was accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Al Faisal and Health and Social Development Minister Zuhair Malhas. (Petra)



JERASH FESTIVAL: Her Majesty Queen Noor inspects the site currently being prepared to host the 1989 Jerash Festival due to open July 5. The Queen was accompanied by Tourism Minister Yassir Hikat, Culture and Information Minister Nasouh Majali, Festival Director Akram Masarwah and other officials. (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan).

60 blood donors receive awards

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday presented certificates and awards to 60 blood donors in appreciation of their true belonging and cooperation with those who are in need of blood.

Chairman of the National Blood-donors Society, which organised the event to honour blood donors, presented the society's trophy to Queen Noor in recognition of her role in supporting pioneering voluntary work. Addressing the celebration was the director of Al Hussein Youth City, Dr. Aref Bataineh, who paid tribute to Queen Noor for her leading role in achieving the welfare of Jordanian citizens.

He pointed out that Noor Al Hussein Foundation was one of the many evidences of Queen Noor's interests in realising a brighter future for Jordan. Bataineh thanked the Queen for being patron of the celebration and for honouring the blood donors.

The society Chairman, Janet Mirza, who is also the director of the Blood Bank, said that blood donation to save the life of a citizen is the true interpretation



Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday presents an award to one of the blood donors at Al Hussein Youth City in Amman (Petra photo)

of the meaning of genuine belonging, and is the best feature of a civilised community.

The celebration was attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Al Faisal, Health and Social

Development Minister Zuhair Malhas, and Planning Minister Ziad Fariz.

NHF organises 5-day course on scriptwriting

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Noor Al Hussein Foundation's Health Communications for Child Survival Project (Healthcom) is organising a five-day training course in scriptwriting for development communication starting Saturday.

The course, which is held in cooperation with the Washington-based Academy for Educational Development (AED), will be conducted by two international experts, Ms. Esta de Fossard, AED senior communications officer, and Dr. Taher Al Amouri, a Tunisian specialist in communication and the design and implementation of training programmes.

Fifteen persons will take part in the course including radio and television scriptwriters and health education specialists from the Ministry of Health, United Nations Relief and Works Agency

(UNRWA), private voluntary organisations and United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA).

The workshop will include a definition of developmental communication, advanced skills in message and generic scriptwriting for behaviour change, techniques to reflect sensitivity to target-group environment, attitudes and language and check-lists for effective utilisation of audience research data.

Ms. de Fossard is an Australian residing permanently in the United States. Since 1984, she has been working with AED in all areas of development communications, including project planning; conducting seminars and workshops; evaluating projects; organising and running training programmes; writing and producing communications-related audio, video and print

materials. She has written a training manual for planners of the communication components of developmental projects, "The Planning Process for Development Communication," a book on translating scientific concepts for the lay audience, and a number of articles published in Asia Calling and Development Communication Report.

She also wrote 13 textbooks in language, arts, logic and clear thinking; 14 children's books, many of which have also been published in several languages, including Greek, Croatian, Italian and Turkish; the Koala series of fables about Australian animals; and the Alien, a novel.

Dr. Taher Al Amouri is a Tunisian specialist who studied at the Saint Cyr Military Academy and the Sorbonne in France. He has taught psychology at

higher educational institutions and at the military academy in Tunisia. He is the director of the Al Amouri Institute of Applied Psychology, a private establishment specialising in audience and community research.

He has written four books in French on various social and psychological topics and he has been president of the Association for Psychological Guidance and Aid since its establishment in 1982.

Healthcom is designed to help Jordan increase the impact of its child survival programmes through improved communication. It is jointly funded by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation and the United States Agency for International Development. It is being implemented by NHF with technical assistance from AED.

Islamic Bank to provide Saudi riyals for pilgrims

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Secretary General Ahmad Helayel Friday said that the ministry has made contacts with a number of local bankers and held meetings with Central Bank officials to provide the necessary Saudi currency to cover the needs of the carrier companies and the ministry.

At a press conference, Helayel said that the ministry has agreed with the Central Bank to provide 2,000 Saudi riyals for each pilgrim (Haj).

Another agreement has been

reached with the Islamic Bank, whereby the various bank branches will provide the necessary Saudi currency for pilgrims and the pilgrim's carrier companies.

On the ministry's preparations for the current Haj season, Helayel said that the ministry has compiled a list, including names of pilgrims and their places of residence in each of Mecca and Medina.

According to this list every pilgrim will know where he will exactly be put up.

For the convenience of pilgrims, Helayel said, each Haj

will be issued with an identity card, carrying personal information and his residential address in Mecca, Medina, and in the camps of Mena and Arafah.

He added that the ministry has also issued a pilgrim's directory, including important instructions on health matters and necessary telephone numbers to enable them to contact their families in Jordan.

The ministry has also provided bracelets, carrying names of pilgrims, names of carrier companies, number of the buses and addresses of the Jordanian teams

accompanying pilgrims.

It has also assigned liaison officers from among the Jordanian teams accompanying pilgrims, in the various places in Mecca, Medina and Mena to provide the necessary help for pilgrims when needed.

A total of 14,937 Jordanian pilgrims will be performing pilgrimage this year. The first convoy of pilgrims, totalling 1,450 pilgrims, will be leaving on June 25, while the second, the third and the fourth, each totalling 4,000 pilgrims, will be leaving on June 26th, 27th and 28th respectively.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HOT ICE PERFORMANCE: His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein has attended a musical performance by the band Hot Ice presented at the King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein Auditorium. The proceeds will go to the Friends of the Liver Patients Society. (Petra)

QASEM MEETS RIGHTS GROUP: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem has received a delegation representing the U.S. Human Rights Commission, currently on a visit to Jordan as part of a tour to the region. The director general of the Palestinian Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry also received the visiting delegation. (Petra)

GREAT ARAB REVOLT EXHIBITION: Youth Minister Awad Khleifat Thursday inaugurated the Great Arab Revolt exhibition, which was held at Al Hussein Youth City Palace of Culture to mark the Great Arab Revolt Day. The exhibition, organised by the Youth Ministry, in cooperation with the Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archive, includes several pavilions, one for photos of the late Sherif Hussein Ibn Ali, one for his sons and another for the most important events, a fourth one for the Great Arab Revolt men and a fifth for historical events dealing with the revolt. (Petra)

King voices satisfaction with RJ standards, achievements

Ghandour: Air carrier to leave \$77m surplus

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday presided over a board meeting for Royal Jordanian airline to hear a report by its Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Ali Ghandour on the air carrier's operations and development.

The King expressed his deep satisfaction with the activities of the Royal Jordanian (RJ) which, he said, is a national institution that serves as Jordan's ambassador to the world and a bridge to bolster the Kingdom's cultural and trade ties with the outside world.

King Hussein said that the airline which started off with a modest capital has now attained high standards and accomplished numerous achievements.

The King expressed his total confidence in Ghandour and the Royal Jordanian staff and said he was pleased with the airline's development and progress.

Ghandour briefed the meeting on the airline's future strategy and outlined the Royal Jordanian operations.

The board discussed financial affairs, including operational plans for 1989 and a number of internal affairs. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker.

Meanwhile Ghandour said in an interview that the national air carrier expects to collect \$314 million and JD 28 million in 1989 compared to \$300 million and JD 20 million in 1988.

He said in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the airline's general expenses were expected to reach \$227 million and JD 50 million, thus leaving a \$77 million surplus in foreign exchange.



His Majesty King Hussein Thursday presides over a Royal Jordanian board meeting in Amman (Petra photo)

Ghandour said Royal Jordanian's fleet of 17 modern aircraft reaches 46 capitals around the world, thus further bolstering Jordan's economic, cultural, trade and political ties with the world community.

Last year the airline transported 1.4 million passengers, many of whom were tourists who spent nearly \$239 million in Jordan, according to Central Bank of Jordan figures, Ghandour noted.

He said that the Royal Jordanian has now sold its old aircraft only to replace them with modern craft like the Airbus and the Tri Stars.

The new planes, he explained, have been financed through bank loans and that the Royal Jordanian has been playing off the debts from the sale of old aircraft.

Ghandour noted that the national airline's current debt now

stands at \$120 million which were originally obtained by the airline to set up income generating projects like hotels and training centres.

But he emphasised that the loans are being settled from the airline's own revenues and not from the Jordanian Treasury.

Mr. Ghandour disclosed that the airline's current assets are estimated at JD 60 million, nearly three times its paid up capital, and has numerous investments designed to augment its annual income.

The airline's general operations, Ghandour pointed out, has actively contributed to the tourism industry in Jordan, "thanks to the efforts of its numerous offices around the world which help market the Kingdom's archaeological and touristic sites under an agreement with the Ministry of Tourism."

Indeed the national airline serves as a bridge to promote understanding and develop the country's relations with the Arab and foreign countries at different levels, the airline's chief noted.

He said that RJ operates a training centre, "one of the best in the region, and provides maintenance services at its workshops to Arab and foreign airlines."

Ghandour said that the national airline employs 5,150 workers who support 25,000 citizens, paying them altogether some JD 23 million in annual salaries that is almost twice the airline's initial capital.

Ghandour said that the airline has never ceased the process of continued development and upgrading the skill of its personnel with a view to maintaining its highest standard, efficiency and distinguished services.

Symposium discusses impact of Islamic life on social and health development

AMMAN (Petra) — Health and Social Development Minister Zuhair Malhas Friday, stood in for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, in opening the symposium on patterns of Islamic life and their impact on social and health development, held on the sidelines of the 7th conference of Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (AI Al Bayt Foundation).

Addressing the symposium, Malhas said that the last five decades have witnessed the conquering of many communicable diseases, by discovering their causes and remedies, and developing the necessary vaccines against them. However, new epidemics and increasing numbers of non-communicable diseases have now appeared, but no sufficient response has yet been received.

Malhas noted that many non-communicable diseases are closely related to the patterns of life or the daily practices of people. Malhas pointed out that there was a drop of 2 per cent in the heart diseases in the United States over the last fifteen years, because of a change in the nutritional practices and personal habits, following a massive official campaign, stated by the health and information circles.

Also addressing the symposium was Hussein Al Gezairi, regional director of the World Health Organisation (WHO) East Mediterranean Regional Office, who outlined the importance of the primary health care approach in directing people to the right practices.

Gezairi also stressed the importance of health education and health communications in changing people's practices. He called for innovating methods capable of correcting the passive patterns of life.

Director of the Islamic Organisation for Medical Sciences (IOMS) Abdul Rahman Al Awadi said that Islam has called on Muslims to safeguard their health and entrusted the community with the task of looking after its own health and that of the citizens.

The four-day symposium is organised by WHO in cooperation with AI Al Bayt Foundation and the IOMS. On Thursday, the symposium on Prophet Mohammad's traditions (Sunnah) and its contribution towards building knowledge and civilisation, held within the framework of the 7th conference AI Al Bayt Foundation, praised the significant efforts made by the

academy in the area of Islamic culture and sciences, and voiced appreciation to it for the studies and research it has undertaken in such a short period of time.

At the conclusion of its meetings, the symposium stressed the need for utilising and building on all researches and studies presented during the previous symposia.

Participants stressed the need for compiling all works on Sunna and publishing them for easy reference, and for finalising the

volumes on Hadith (Prophet Mohammad's sayings), Hadith sciences and Hadith-tellers, in addition to preparing analytical indexes in accordance with the Sunna words and subjects.

They also recommended that the Academy, in cooperation with all institutions concerned, hold a symposium to draw up a comprehensive plan for the uses of computer in the field of Sunna. They also recommended that Sunna be taught at the various

Arab and Islamic universities and scientific institutions, in a method capable of highlighting its contribution towards shaping up Islamic life.

At the end of their meetings, participants cabled thanks and appreciation to His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan for their efforts in serving the Islamic nation. They also expressed gratitude to King Hussein for opening the conference.



Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi and his accompanying delegation are seen Thursday upon their return from the APU meetings in Abu Dhabi (Petra photo)

Arab parliamentarians give full support to Jordanian suggestions

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi and the accompanying parliamentary delegation returned home Thursday after taking part in the 5th Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) conference, which concluded in Abu Dhabi Wednesday.

In an arrival statement, Lawzi said the Jordanian delegation has played a distinctive role in the conference deliberations and has received the full support of other parliamentary delegations "for its perceptions and constructive suggestions, which serve the Arab interests."

Lawzi noted that the conference had adopted a number of recommendations on pan-Arab causes, including the Palestine question, the Lebanese crisis and the Iraq-Iran peace drive.

On the Palestinian scene, Lawzi said the APU has called for convening an international peace conference on the Middle East, describing such a conference as the best formula for ending the Arab-Israeli conflict and safeguarding the legitimate Palestinian rights.

The conference also voiced support for the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories, called for establishing a just and durable peace between Iran and Iraq and stressed the need for supporting Lebanon to get out of its crisis.

Lawzi added that the Parliamentarians have agreed that the APU resolutions and recommendations be published and communicated through the Arab media to all Arab countries.

The APU further recommended that Arab issues be discussed at the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) meetings, due to be held in London next September and that Euro-Arab and Afro-Arab dialogue as well as dialogue with Latin American and Asian parliamentarians be pursued.

Lawzi reiterated that Arab Parliamentarians have unanimously agreed on all decisions and recommendations made at the conference and that no differences have surfaced during the conference.

The Jordanian-Parliamentary delegation included senate members Ahmad Tarawneh and Mohammad Rasour Al Kilani, as well as Fayed Nuwwar and Sufian Al Hassan from the APU General Secretariat staff.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian and Arab artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition entitled "Study in Line and Colour" by Dodi Tabaa at the Petra Bank Art Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "French Jazz Nowadays" in which several videos will be shown at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ A photo exhibition which includes photos depicting the great role played by the leaders of the Great Arab Revolt at the Palace of Culture, Al Hussein Youth City.
- ★ A photo exhibition by August Sander at the Goethe Institute — 5:00 p.m.

LECTURE

- ★ A lecture entitled: "The effects of the uprising on culture in the occupied lands" by Dr. Khalil Sawahiri at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 6:30 p.m.

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Ethnic unrest: Gorbachev's most serious problem

By Peter Conradi
Reuter

MOSCOW — Ethnic unrest is emerging as one of the most intractable problems facing President Mikhail Gorbachev as he struggles to reform the Soviet Union.

At least 200 people have been killed and more than 2,000 injured over the last 18 months in nationalist violence in the three Caucasian republics of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia and in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan in Soviet Central Asia.

"These outbreaks are becoming almost a fact of life these days," said a Western diplomat Tuesday as details began to emerge of clashes in the Kazakh city of Novy Uzen in which at least three people have died over the last few days.

"Last week it was Uzbekistan, this week Kazakhstan who knows where it will be next?" The diplomat explained: "It is a mixture of demands for political freedom prompted by glasnost, economic problems and a decline of ideology among young people."

For Gorbachev, the emergence, one after the other, of nationalist problems presents an unwelcome diversion from his main tasks of revolutionising Soviet foreign policy and dragging the country's floundering economy out of depression.

And the problem is compounded by the growth of nationalist demands in the Baltic republics, in Moldavia, Byelorussia and the Ukraine, where tens or even hundreds of thousands have taken to the streets in largely peaceful protests.

The underlying causes of the unrest have varied, although they have been linked by a common thread of growing economic crisis across the Soviet Union which amplifies tensions between the republics' ethnically and religiously mixed populations.

The new more liberal atmosphere which has gradually emerged since Gorbachev took over in March 1985 has also given people a new freedom to go out on the streets and make their demands.

But force appears to have remained the preferred means of dealing with almost all manifestations of unrest since Gorbachev faced his first outbreak of nationalist violence in the Kazakh capital of Alma Ata in December 1986.

And, as speakers from various of the 15 Soviet republics made

clear at the inaugural session of the parliament, the congress of people's deputies, which ended this month, the problems have remained almost entirely unresolved.

For Gorbachev, continuing outbreaks of unrest present an unwelcome diversion from what he sees as his main tasks of revolutionising the Soviet Union's foreign policy and dragging the country's floundering economy out of depression.

A potent mixture of religious and ethnic differences and economic problems appeared to be behind unrest in the last 18 months over the underdeveloped mountainous enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

More than 90 people were killed last year and several hundred injured in clashes sparked by demands by the Armenian major-

ity of the region for it to be transferred from Azerbaijan to Armenia.

In characteristic manner, troops and tanks were sent both into Nagorno-Karabakh itself and to the capitals of both republics, ensuring that there has been no repetition in the last few months of last year's violence.

However, an attempt to find a compromise solution which would give the region more autonomy without changing borders has clearly failed to satisfy demands of the Karabakh Armenians, who began a new campaign of strikes last month.

Force was also applied, but this time with tragic consequences, in neighbouring Georgia where nationalist groups staged a series of round-the-clock demonstrations in April to press demands for more autonomy or even inde-

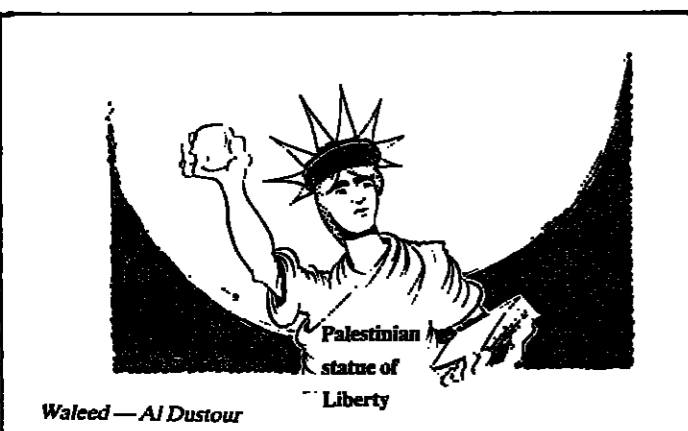
pendence. Early in the morning of April 9, troops armed with sharpened shovels and poisonous gas moved in to clear a square in the centre of the capital, Tbilisi, where some 8,000 were gathered, and killed 20 people, 16 of them women.

In contrast, troops apparently helped keep down the death toll in Uzbekistan's Fergana Valley, where almost 100 people were officially reported dead and some 1,500 injured this month when Uzbeks hunted down minority Meskhetian Turks.

Yet even here, the authorities' hands were not entirely clean. Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, who went to Fergana last week to try and soothe passions, accused local officials of active involvement in stirring up the unrest, the worst single outbreak in decades of Soviet history.

Before it's too late

COMING as it does in the wake of Israel's most recent escalation of its oppressive policies against the Palestinian intifada, Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin's admission before the Knesset Wednesday that the Palestinian uprising constitutes the most complex confrontation in Israel's history offers some avenues for hope. In Rabin's own words there were no ready-made cures for the Palestinian struggle and all proposed Likud recipes such as deportations are simply not workable as the protracted conflict is with all of the Palestinian people. If Rabin and like-minded Israelis are beginning now to comprehend the depth of the Palestinian intifada, and the impossibility of putting out the fire that animated the Palestinians in the occupied territories, would it not be in order and even in Israel's long term interest to start contemplating new thinking and perspective on how to stop the intifada, namely, by reconciling themselves with the proposition that nothing will stop the struggling Palestinians from continuing to wage their struggle for liberty and self-determination except the realisation of their legitimate aspirations as internationally recognised and approved. The longer the Israeli body politic waits for magic cures the easier it would become for the Israeli extremism to capitalise on the bankruptcy of existing Israeli policies and bring in new leadership such as the likes of Ariel Sharon who already earned Israel the hardest ever debacle when he engineered the invasion of Lebanon in 1982. Surely every sensible man and woman in Israel fully comprehend that the rise of extremism in Israel would inevitably lead to war with the Arab countries. And with the advent of rocketry and weapons of mass-destruction in the Middle East, any war that may erupt between Israel and its neighbouring Arab countries would necessarily precipitate a conflagration the like of which no Israeli or Arab generation has yet seen. The choice thus is for Israelis to make: Either to keep on closing their eyes to the truth and allow extremism to flourish and instigate war and destruction on a scale hitherto unknown, or accept to enter into a full-fledged political dialogue with the Palestinians. This is in essence the message that the Israeli people must see clearly before it is too late for all the peoples of the region.



Waleed — Al Dustour

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

AI Ra'i on Friday said that the Israeli government is showing its repressive measures in the occupied Palestinian land. The deportation of Arab citizens, the demolition of homes and the killing of innocent civilians expose the false claims of the Israelis that they are concerned with genuine peace, the paper said. The atrocities committed by the Jewish settlers, the paper noted, are a source of shame even to the Jews themselves and have been condemned by many Israeli people. Against all this background Yitzhak Rabin and his generals are not heeding any one's protest and are going ahead with their iron fist policy to quell the intifada and stifle the spirit of resistance, the paper noted. It said that the international community in general and those who brag about the human rights in the United States ought to realise the seriousness of the situation in the Arab land and to move to put an end to such atrocities.

Sawt Al Shaab daily referred to the Arab League's endeavours at the international level to expose Israel's actions against the Palestinian people. It said that while Arab envoys are busy and involved in international gatherings to talk about the atrocities, the Israelis are escalating their repressive measures in the occupied lands. The Israelis are not heeding any calls for peace and are not giving any regard to any protest from any source as long as they are assured of continued United States assistance and backing at the Security Council, the paper noted. It said that since Washington holds all the cards, it is futile for the Arabs to continue their campaigns outside Washington and should now direct their attention to the Bush administration to help solve the chronic problem.



START talks: No reductions for reductions' sake

By Jan M. Lodal
ROCKVILLE, Maryland — After a six-month suspension, the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks resumed 19th June amid high expectations generated by a series of dramatic moves in arms control. But without modifications in the U.S. negotiating position, certain provisions of the START agreement could violate the Hippocratic Oath of arms control: a treaty should do no harm.

The harm could be done if George Bush continues Ronald Reagan's emphasis on the unachievable goal of getting rid of all nuclear weapons. This emphasis could channel weapons modernisation in directions that undermine stability, making war more likely. Nuclear stability depends heavily on large and diverse nuclear arsenals in both countries that make a disarmament first-strike impossible. While the existing START pact would not immediately endanger stability, it could set precedents that might make future agreements more difficult to reach. Two relatively small changes in the U.S. negotiating stance could largely eliminate those problems.

First, the existing START limit

of 1,600 on weapons launchers should apply only to systems carrying multiple nuclear weapons — either missiles with multiple warheads or bombers with cruise missiles — and not to single-warhead missiles.

As agreed to date, START will allow each side 4,900 warheads. The greatest stability would be achieved by spreading the 4,900 warheads over an equal number of "aim points." Namely, each side would have 4,900 warheads and 4,900 launchers. That is because offensive weapons are not perfectly reliable, and it would take two or more warheads to destroy each single-warhead weapon. Since the attacker would use up more weapons in a strike than it destroyed, it would be left with a less favourable balance of forces after the attack. As a result, there would be no incentive to attack in the first place.

By limiting launchers to 1,600, the START treaty would prevent the two sides from spreading their 4,900 warheads over an equal number of launchers. To avoid this, the treaty should exempt single-warhead missiles from the 1,600 limit while simultaneously lowering the ceiling on launchers with multiple warheads, perhaps

to 1,000. Taken together, the two measures would provide strong incentive to eliminate multiple-warhead missiles and build new single-warhead missiles.

The United States also should reconsider its position on mobile intercontinental-range ballistic missiles. Until now, Washington has insisted that all such systems be banned. Yet, the United States is continuing to develop two mobile systems; a rail-mobile MX system, which would closely resemble the Soviet 10-warhead rail-mobile SS-24, and the mobile Midgetman, much like the Soviet single-warhead SS-25.

Both U.S. programmes are in trouble in Congress. The rail-mobile MX is particularly threatened. Many in Congress oppose both the 10-warhead MX missile and the idea of moving nuclear weapons on the U.S. civilian rail system in times of crisis. The rail-mobile MX will have a hard time surviving budget pressures, even if it is permitted by START.

There is a strong case to be made for banning large, mobile, multiple-warhead missiles, such as the SS-24, while dropping the proposed ban on single-warhead mobile ICBMs. Single-warhead,

Sri Lanka: Resorting to emergency

By Rajendra Bajpai
Reuter

COLOMBO — Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa, fighting challenges to his authority, used the only option available to him when he decided to reimpose a state of emergency, analysts said Wednesday.

Few were willing to hazard a guess whether he would succeed in controlling the situation with the emergency powers which allow the military to detain people without trial.

Premadasa introduced emergency rule last Tuesday after a crippling bus strike looked like spreading to other sectors in the build-up to a nationwide general strike.

Sinhalese guerrillas of the People's Liberation Front (JVP) are suspected of being behind the rash of strikes in Colombo and anti-government protests.

It was not immediately clear whether the military armed with its sweeping powers was preparing to crack down on the Sinhalese militants in their southern strongholds. But a senior military officer based in Matara in the south said the army was stepping up its operation.

Nearly 24 hours after the proclamation of emergency, buses were still off the road in Colombo and there was minimal military presence on the streets.

Reggie, Sirwardene of the Institute of Ethnic Studies said the government was left with no option but to bring back the state of emergency which Premadasa lifted in January after more than five years.

"His (Premadasa's) hand has been forced. He did not have much choice in the matter," Sirwardene said.

The emergency rule under former President Junius Jayewardene was widely criticised by human rights activists and Premadasa promised during the election campaign last year he would revoke it as soon as he came to power.

Political analyst Ralph Bultjens of the State University of New York said Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi should be blamed in part for forcing the government to take the decision. Anti-Indian sentiment on the island has escalated to new heights because of the presence of Indian troops invited two years ago to quell a rebellion by minority Tamils in the north and east.

Premadasa has asked India to withdraw its troops before the end of next month but New Delhi has said they would leave when the terms of the accord under which they came were implemented.

The government has opened talks with the Tamil Tigers, the powerful separatist guerrilla

force, in a bid to reach a political settlement but has failed to persuade JVP to talk peace.

Last Wednesday, parliament's speaker Haniffa Mohamed made a fresh unconditional appeal for talks to the JVP, saying the country was "facing the gravest crisis."

Bultjens said if India has agreed to pull out its troops, it would have helped Premadasa in defusing the tension. "India is not disposed towards helping President Premadasa," he added.

"There is a confluence of crises," Bultjens said. Pointing to the country's growing economic problems, lack of direction in foreign policy and the JVP's armed campaign.

Western diplomatic sources said it was difficult to say whether the government would succeed in controlling the situation even with the help of emergency powers.

The government recently imposed restrictions on imports of luxury goods and raised interest rates in a bid to squeeze credit.

"Last Tuesday, bankers reported no pursuit of funds in the interbank call market to buy dollars on rumours that the rupees might be devalued."

Security sources said five Indian soldiers and two Tamil Tigers were killed in separate clashes in northern Vavuniya district also on Tuesday.

Gandhi's row with neighbours

By Moses Manoharan
Reuter

NEW DELHI — A bitter row with Sri Lanka over withdrawal of Indian troops from the island and a trade war with Nepal threaten to overshadow Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's early diplomatic successes in an election year.

Analysts said last Tuesday the two issues gave the opposition a chance to make Gandhi's Congress (I) Party's foreign policy record a major issue for the first time in a general election, which Gandhi must call by the end of the year.

On Sri Lanka, Gandhi has rejected President Ranasinghe Premadasa's demand for the pullout by July 29 of 45,000 troops of the Indian Peace-Keeping Force (IPKF) sent under an accord be-

tween Gandhi and Premadasa's predecessor, Junius Jayewardene.

On Nepal, Gandhi has refused to renew trade arrangements which control the entry of nearly all imports into the landlocked Himalayan kingdom from India because of perceived moves to improve ties with China.

India's best-known opposition leader, Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has already said he intends to make Sri Lanka and Nepal part of his campaign platform for the polls.

The opposition will focus criticism on the loss of nearly 1,000 Indian soldiers in operations carried out by the Indian Peace-Keeping Force (IPKF) against Tamil rebels, said former foreign secretary A.P. Venkateswaran.

"The main concern of the Indian government is that it has no

way of justifying the issue to the public — what we have achieved there by sending our troops, by losing so many Indian lives and spending (millions) of rupees," he said.

"These are questions that are bound to be asked after the withdrawal is completed and particularly during an election campaign," Venkateswaran said.

The troops, sent to Sri Lanka to disarm Tamil rebels under the 1987 accord, are now in danger of turning into an occupation force, said Ashis Nandi.

Newspaper reports from Colombo, unconfirmed by the Sri Lankan government, say Sri Lanka may take the issue to the U.N. Security Council or the International Court at the Hague if India refuses to comply with the July 29 deadline.

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"In drama a child plays a role to understand or learn a specific thing. The power of drama in education lies in the fact that it actively involves children in the learning process; as a child acts out the role of a farmer, for example, he is not only learning facts about what a farmer does, or how he lives, he is also gaining human experience by practicing language spontaneously, and adjusting to the situation."

example, he is not only learning facts about what a farmer does, or how he lives, he is also gaining human experience by practicing language spontaneously, and adjusting to the situation."

Drama in education

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In order to fulfil its aims, the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF) encourages the participation of the public in social development plans. The Fund's services include opening centres in rural and deprived areas, and to house in each a kindergarten. "A child needs to learn through acting and working. Now-a-days we make use of a child's playing by using it as a tool for teaching, as is the case with drama," says Rabab Qubbaj, kindergarten supervisor at QAF.

Accordingly, the Fund recently held a seminar on 'Drama in Education'. The aim was to introduce drama in education as a new subject area emphasising its theoretical basis, and some practical applications. "The Fund realised that the courses it was offering teachers were becoming repetitive because of the courses' general nature. So we (at the Fund) decided to hold more specialised lectures," says Qubbaj who was the supervising officer at the seminar.

So as to train teachers in early childhood education, the fund held a series of workshops in its centres in Ma'an, Tafel, and El-Nuzha. Basically, the seminar is an end result of this period of training held with the teachers who work in the Fund's rural centres. It was apparent that professionals and non-professionals alike had no clear concept of drama in education, and its introduction in the scholastic curriculum as a tool for teaching.

At the seminar six working papers were presented. 'The Phenomena of Drama' was discussed by Mufid Hawamdeh, another 'Drama and Psychology' by Dr.

Abdel-Rahim Sweilim, 'Puppets and Education' by Margo Malatjian, and 'Drama and Sociology' by Dr. Fakhry Koustandi. Samar Dudin Karajuh also discussed her paper on 'Drama in Education' and Patrick Redsell talked about 'Drama in Education' as an English experience.

Redsell explained about the models of the English curriculum that are designed and applied in various schools in England concerned with drama in education. For he has twenty years of experience in teaching, training teachers, and writing books on this subject.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Karajuh said that the seminar was important because it clarified some points of confusion. For one thing, drama in education was defined as "Anything that involves people in active role taking situations in which attitudes are the chief concern lived at life rate. It is a process involving discovery from moment to moment, and problem-solving as the basis of learning."

She further explained that "In drama a child plays a role in order to understand or learn a specific thing. The power of drama in education lies in the fact that it actively involves children in the learning process; as a child acts out the role of a farmer, for example, he is not only learning facts about what a farmer does, or how he lives, he is also gaining human experience by practicing language spontaneously, and adjusting to the situation."

Also discussed at the seminar was the role that a teacher undertakes. He is concerned in creating learning areas through which children can explore themes and situations like oppression, friendship, family relationships, and political issues. A teacher

challenges his students into looking closely at points of human tension, and converting the abstract into concrete.

Other areas clarified that related to drama in education were theatre in education, and children's theatre. These are two professional entities where actors perform plays for children. In theatre in education teacher-actor teams perform plays that evolve from the curriculum, or from a theme that concerns a specific age group.

It was concluded that drama is important in the development of verbal skills, problem solving and decision making, self-confidence, and the capacity to assess and analyse. Drama also stimulates the imagination and helps a child in becoming more disciplined.

In addition, demonstrations were held by local drama teachers at the seminar. From the Amman Baccalaureate School, Hala Khoury gave a practical demonstration, as did Juliet 'Awad from Amman El-Wataniyah School.

According to Qubbaj the seminar was a success because "in our meetings attendance decreases, so that by the third day few people come. This time however, we started out with 56 participants and ended up with 82 on the last day. The discussions were serious and objective, the Ministry of Education is going to form a committee that will carry out the recommendations. This way, our seminar will have achieved its purpose and not have been merely ink on paper."

Recommendations included the integration of drama in our school subjects or as an individual subject and studying how this can be achieved in the long run.

Computer viruses thwart experts

By John Markoff

NEW YORK — Computer experts in the United States are exploring a variety of cures for the nation's epidemic of computer viruses, but they see no sure way to stop outbreaks that threaten all but the most isolated and elaborately protected systems.

Some experts say the threat is so acute it may force a rethinking of the growing dependence on both large and small computers.

Infections by viruses, programmes that can secretly spread between computers and alter or destroy data, have increased dramatically.

For example, the software trade association Adaps reported in March that there were 30,000 virus infections in the last two months of 1988, as against 3,000 in the first two months of that year.

Software experts have devised a number of techniques to ward off, detect and destroy viruses. But they concede that almost all systems remain vulnerable.

Further, efforts to make computer systems more secure inevitably reduce their flexibility and ease of use.

"From a technical perspective there is no silver bullet," said John B. Landry, an executive vice president of Culinet Software Inc. and an Adaps executive.

The problem is worsened by the growing use of computers, electronic bulletin boards and public and private computer networks.

"In recent years a lot of people became infatuated with what they could do with computers," said Eugene H. Spafford, a Purdue University computer scientist who has been involved in fighting viruses. "We have to pause and ask, 'Do we really want everybody in the country connected on a single computer network?'"

Viruses can enter a computer system in several ways.

For example, a disgruntled employee might introduce a virus that modifies programming language so that it alters or destroys data. Or users who copy software from electronic bulletin boards might unwittingly pick up a programme whose author had imbed-

ded a virus in it. Or someone with access to a computer's passwords might transmit a virus to a computer system over telephone lines.

Once inside the computer, a virus might erase all a user's data, cause a particular message to appear on computer screens, or duplicate itself, clogging the computer's memory.

Researchers are most frightened by viruses that make minor modifications, like altering numbers in a spread sheet, thereby introducing errors that might never be noticed.

Researchers have taken several approaches to block virus entry or "vaccinate" computers so that users are notified when a virus is at work.

Also, many companies have drastically restricted employee access to computer systems or barred the use of borrowed or copied software. Others have broken up computer networks so that a virus cannot travel from system to system.

Some companies maintain their own security forces, which monitor computer systems to watch for viruses.

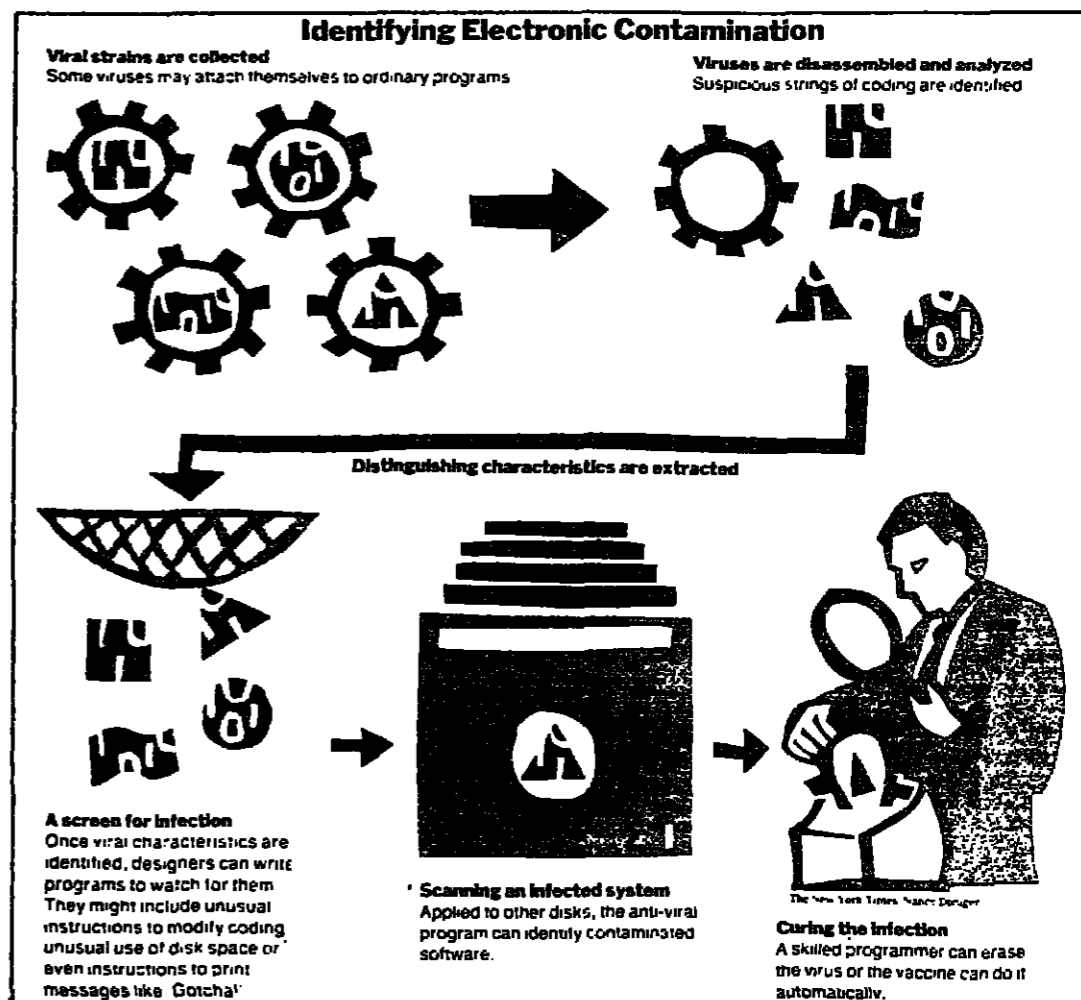
For example, Clifford Stoll, an astronomer at Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory in California, was monitoring a group of computers there when he discovered that a Western German computer hacker had entered the system through an international computer network.

Other companies have been established to perform such surveillance. And several federal agencies have set up teams to look for loopholes in computer systems and respond quickly to virus attacks.

In the end, however, most experts acknowledge that no system is absolutely secure unless it is physically and electronically isolated from potential sources of infection.

The virus plague has led to calls from software industry leaders and legislators for strict new laws to punish virus authors.

But computer experts warn that tougher laws may have little impact on a shadowy international computer underground that clandestinely releases the programmes.



"It is probably a mistake for people in Washington to think that there is a legal fix here," said Marc Rotenberg, Washington director for Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility.

For one thing, computer experts say, it is almost impossible to track computer viruses unless their authors inadvertently identify themselves or actually brag about their work.

They leave no fingerprints and can be let loose in a variety of ways that are virtually undetectable.

It is virtually impossible to tell where a virus came from or even what kind of computer system it was written on.

Many software publishers have increased quality control procedures and are testing software more vigorously for fear that

their products might be tampered with before they reach the market.

Several dozen companies have published vaccines to protect against viruses. They generally work by keeping track of key operating system software and interrupting operation when modifications are made.

But the companies acknowledge that the protection they offer is limited, largely because virus writers can design viruses to circumvent them.

In fact, virus experts suggest that vaccine programmes may actually compound the problem by offering an intellectual challenge to rogue programmers. Already a number of virus programmes have been "mutated" to avoid vaccine programmes. The vaccines "give people a

false sense of security," said Robert M. Frankston, chief scientist at the Lotus Development Corp. in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Ultimately, advances in computer design may limit the spread of viruses, computer researchers say.

Mainframe and minicomputers have traditionally been less vulnerable than personal computers because they contain sophisticated hardware and software memory protection features. For example, hardware available in advanced systems limits the areas in which a programme can operate. In the future, this feature will be available in personal computers, making the spread of viruses more difficult — The New York Times.

Small fry fighting the big fish in the Philippines

By Amanda Milligan

Pollution from shoreline factories and the practice of commercial fishpen farming threatens the livelihoods of traditional small-scale Filipino fishing people. They are fighting back.

MANILA — Max Mendoza can remember a time when fishing was easy in the inland waters around the Philippine capital of Manila: "Fish were plentiful in the river near my house," he says. "We caught different varieties and species and we had the choice of keeping only the bigger fish."

Max's friend, Saffronyo Balagdas, even remembers catching fish with his bare hands.

But today Filipino fishing people like them are deeply concerned about their future. In a country of over 7,000 islands, fishing provides a livelihood for an estimated six million Filipinos and also gives poor families a significant source of cheap protein.

This way of life is increasingly under threat, as Mendoza explains: "Our inland fishing conditions are becoming endangered by polluting factories which make the fish in our rivers more and more rare, whereas formerly we had the choice of catching one kilo of fish, now it is rare for us to catch 250 grams. I mean one fish — so our catch becomes smaller and smaller."

Just east of the capital, about 70,000 people depend on the fishing in Lake Laguna for their living. This lake, which was thought to be the richest in the country, is now ringed by over 400 industrial establishments and is slowly dying, according to Deanna Lichauchao of Pamalakaya, a national movement of small fishermen.

"About 245 of these factories are highly pollutive," she says. "Some have no waste treatment equipment at all and the facilities of others are poorly maintained; their industrial waste poses serious environmental and health hazards to individuals and animals."

Pollution of inland waters is further aggravated by intensive agricultural practices which release pesticides and fertilisers into rivers and lakes, also killing to fish.

Another major problem for lake fishermen is the proliferation of fishpens. These are areas of

water fenced off largely by businessmen and some politicians for intensive fishing.

Travel from one end of the lake to the other is seriously hampered by fishpens and catches have decreased, as Saffronyo Balagdas explains: "The most productive parts of Laguna Lake where we go the best catches are now occupied by fishpens and the shallow parts of the navigational lanes are very near the shore line where there are no longer any fish because of the pollution from the factories."

Many fishermen feel desperate. "What I fear most is that I know no other source of income and I don't know how to fend for my family," says Antonio Amarante. "I know the lake is dying and fishing is the only thing I can do."

Largely due to the pressures, some

small-scale fishermen have resorted to illegal methods to catch fish. These include dynamiting, electro fishing (electrocuting fish with a battery and metal rod), poisons and the practice of trawling the river bed which destroys breeding grounds.

As the situation has steadily worsened in recent years, the traditionally solitary fishing people have begun to organise and fight back. Pamalakaya was established in 1986 and is a national alliance of fishing people's organisations with a membership of about 50,000. The Laguna Bay chapter started in July 1987 and is now in touch with

20 different groups around the lake.

Deanna Lichauchao explains that, as a Pamalakaya worker, she helps to establish and strengthen small fishing organisations which work to protect the livelihood of their members and to lobby for their concerns.

"The value to them of being part of Pamalakaya is that their problems, even if they are big, become lighter because they are solved as a group," she says.

Fishing people and the local community have been banding together and approaching factories, urging them not to pollute the water and kill the fish. PANOS

Mozambican refugees become prosperous peasant farmers

By Pascal Fletcher
Reuters

UKWIMI, Zambia — African refugees are usually seen as helpless and homeless, surviving on food handouts from aid organisations.

But not at Ukwimi, in Zambia's eastern province, where refugees from the civil war in Mozambique are not only growing enough to feed themselves but are producing surpluses to sell to local Zambians.

Instead of hungry faces queuing for daily food rations, the Ukwimi settlement presents a picture of rural prosperity.

Wickerwork silos bulging with fat maize cobs and well-tilled farm plots, or "machambas," stand beside neat mud and wood huts.

The refugees' bumper crops of maize, groundnuts and beans are a small but important contribution to the local economy in a country which regularly imports large quantities of food despite its abundance of fertile land.

"It proves that if you give refugees adequate land and support, they are not a liability to the country they live in but they can contribute to the national economy," said Anton Verwey, representative in Zambia of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Nearly a quarter of the 13,000 Mozambicans at Ukwimi, among the first to be settled two years ago, are feeding themselves, and from June will stop receiving food aid.

The sprawling community, carved out of Virgin Bush 100 kilometres north of the border with Mozambique, is now being doubled in area to 300 square kilometres to hold up to 10,000 more refugees expected this year.

Instead of the bare tents and barbed-wire fences of many re-

fugee camps, Ukwimi, named after a local chief, consists of 46 separate villages linked by dirt roads through fields or bush.

Run by the UNHCR with the Zambian authorities and foreign aid organisations, it has warehouses, a clinic, a skills training centre, two primary schools, and a social club.

Self-sufficiency through farming is the main priority. Newly-arrived refugee families are given hoes, axes, seeds and two hectares of land. For the first two years they receive a daily food ration.

Agricultural experts at Ukwimi are amazed by the results and say many of the refugees now have a higher standard of living than the local Zambian peasants.

In their first year at Ukwimi, the Mozambicans produced 117 tonnes of surplus maize which they sold to a local cooperative. This year they are expected to produce a 2,800 tonne-surplus.

Simaio Vinte Goncalves, a 41-year-old farmer from the Tete province of Mozambique, proudly shows off the 1290 kilograms sacks of rice grown on his plot. "I only had a small farm in Mozambique," he said.

He and the other refugees have been taught new farming skills by Norwegian farming expert Magne Lund. They have learnt how to use fertilisers, rotate crops and grow soya beans and other new crops.

UNHCR officials hope Ukwimi will be self-sufficient in food by 1991, but some refugees are worried how they will manage. "Yes, we have enough food but what we need are things like salt, soap, cooking oil and clothes," said 42-year-old Bernardo Gibunda from Maxixe in Mozambique's Inhambane province.

Ukwimi has a small shop that stocks such goods, as well as its own tailors coached at the Dan-

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ONCE BITTEN

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema **ALJOUR** Tel: 675571

THE BEACH GIRL

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 677420

9½ WEEKS

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

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Syria treads recovery path

DAMASCUS (AP) — A string of oil discoveries in the eastern desert and a new determination to boost the private sector are helping Syria climb out of a deep economic trough.

With the help of Western oil companies, the country this year became a net oil exporter for the first time, with revenues of \$550 million forecast by early 1990.

"Self-sufficiency in energy is something you really appreciate when you've never had it before," Economy Minister Mohammed Imadi said in an interview.

"The studies show that we have a continuous oil and gas supply for our needs and a surplus for export whenever we need the foreign exchange," he said.

For the Syrians, whose economy has been in such poor shape it barely had enough foreign exchange to cover one week's imports, the oil flow offers the prospect of badly needed revenue.

The modest oil boom has come as Syria struggles to reduce annual inflation of more than 65 per cent and service its \$18 billion foreign debt.

Three-quarters of the debt is owed to the Soviet Union, mostly for arms purchased for strategic parity with Israel.

Oil giants like Royal Dutch Shell, British Petroleum, Occidental of the United States, and France's Total are among 10 foreign companies involved in ex-

ploring and developing the new fields as quickly as possible.

"It's a high-pressure job because the Syrians are really in a rush to get the oil out of the ground," said one exploration expert, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"The better we do, the more we're asked to do," Syria has been pumping around 150,000 barrels a day of heavy crude from the Souweidieh fields in the northeast since the early 1970s and mixing it with imported light crude for domestic use.

Prospecting at that time by the country's East Bloc allies brought no results, but advanced technology helped Shell locate the Thayem fields in 1984.

The new wells are already producing around 200,000 barrels a day of saleable crude, raising overall output to 350,000 barrels a day, more than double the country's needs.

But because the deposits are "generally small and fractured, exploration will have to be continuous in order to guarantee long-term supplies," the expert said.

Oil Minister Mutianous Habib recently told the Middle East Economic Survey, an oil industry newsletter, that another 50,000 barrels a day will be added later

this year from three new fields. He said Syria was "evaluating potential reserves throughout the country" in what he called a "crucial year" for exploration.

The government has also signed a contract with the U.S. Marathon Company to develop natural gas deposits south of ancient Palmyra, to be used instead of oil and hydro-power for generating electricity.

Imadi said that the increased oil output and a record harvest following higher-than-average rainfall helped the economy grow by a staggering 10.7 per cent last year.

This year, agricultural production will fall sharply because of a winter drought that is already causing water shortages in Damascus. But officials estimate that the oil boom will still fuel growth of around 7.2 per cent a year.

Syria is negotiating barter deals to settle accounts with foreign creditors and cut import bills. Phosphate exports, for example, will pay for importing antibiotics from France and Italy.

A senior government official said that a crackdown on smuggling is working, but that incentives for private businessmen "to improve industrial production and earn the right to import more are the most effective way" of curbing the blackmarket economy.

Contraband ranging from bananas and French cheeses to

clothing and computer software arrives in Syria by the truckload from neighbouring Lebanon, foreign residents of Damascus say.

Under the new measures, businessmen can use up to 75 per cent of their export earnings to finance imports. They can also go into partnership with the government in tourism, transportation and agri-business projects.

To attract expatriate Syrians to invest at home, tax incentives and a law allowing businessmen to transfer earnings abroad are being prepared. There are plans, too, for reviving the Damascus stock market after a quarter-century gap.

"It's common sense to have the private sector more actively involved in the economy," Imadi said.

But Western diplomats predict it will be a while before the Syrian economy takes off.

There is a great commercial tradition here, but because of the complex bureaucracy, and corruption, it can't be revived from one day to the next," one commented.

Syrians say they find it hard to manage on salaries that range from 1,250 Syrian pounds (\$63) a month for a taxi-driver to 2,500 (\$125) for a university professor.

The government recently hiked wages by 25 per cent, but gasoline prices immediately jumped by 50 per cent and some foodstuffs by 30 per cent.

Sabena forges alliance with B.A., KLM

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgian carriers Sabena has unveiled a pioneering alliance with British Airways and KLM of the Netherlands, crowning a three-year search for a partner to help it confront mounting competition in Europe.

Share analysts called the deal the broadest cross-border partnership reached by national European airlines, adding it could dramatically affect the European industry as a whole.

Sabena Chairman Carlos van Rafeleghem said BA and KLM (Royal Dutch Airlines) will be buying a 20 per cent stake each in a new subsidiary grouping his firm's air transport business after a capital increase. It will be called Sabena World Airlines.

He gave no financial details of the deal, but said Sabena would hold the remaining 60 per cent

but that Luxembourg's Luxair may also join the deal.

"To this effect Sabena will take the fullest advantage of the liberalisation of the scheduled airline industry," Van Rafeleghem told a news conference.

One analyst, who declined to be named, said the partnership would create a formidable force in the European Community airline industry which competitors could not ignore.

"This could start a series of structural changes for European airlines," the Brussels-based industry analyst said.

"It will increase the urgency of other medium-sized airlines to get partners and it will cause big carriers to reassess their competitive positions on the European continent," he added.

Sabena, which ranked 15th

among West European airlines in 1987 on a basis of passengers carried worldwide, has been looking for a foreign alliance for at least three years.

The EC, working towards an open air transport market within the 12-nation bloc after 1992, adopted limited measures to deregulate the government-controlled industry in 1987. The EC's executive commission will next month unveil its proposals for a sweeping new round of liberalisation.

Van Rafeleghem said the deal would supply Sabena with fresh capital, help it expand its network, and develop Brussels into a major continental hub.

He said the agreement would also involve so called block space agreements — whereby one airline help sell space on another

airline's flight — and code-sharing — which consists of grouping flights of different airlines as one.

BA and KLM meanwhile would gain increased access to Brussels airport, which unlike Britain's strained Heathrow, could double the traffic it handles given appropriate investment.

Van Rafeleghem said the European Commission, which will have vet the plan to ensure it does not violate EC competition rules, would also be notified.

EC sources said Brussels was likely to favour the alliance as long as it did not restrict competition within the Community.

The like-up must also be ratified by the three airline boards and the Belgian parliament but Van Rafeleghem expected Sabena World Airlines to start operating in January.

Menem plans business-labour unity

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Incoming president Carlos Menem, who takes office July 8, plans to recreate the bases of capitalism in Argentina through an alliance of business with labour, Menem aides have said.

Menem's Peronist Party, which spans a broad political spectrum from left to right, has its grassroots support among the working class and trades unions. It openly rejects communism.

Menem's promised "productive revolution" plans to restore growth in a productive system devastated by years of economic crisis, provide jobs for the country's one million unemployed and stem the enormous waste of funds caused by an inefficient public sector.

"To break this (situation) an alliance between capital and labour is needed in order to grow fast, making use of our competitive advantages and adopting an

aggressive export policy," one of Menem's closest advisers told Reuters.

In a show of the importance given to Argentina's exports, Menem has named economist Domingo Cavallo the future foreign minister.

Cavallo said at a regional Latin American meeting in Caracas at the weekend his country would not resume payments, halted in May 1988, on its \$60 billion foreign debt until order had been restored to the economy.

"All our efforts will be concentrated on stopping inflation, which has reached 100 per cent monthly, putting the public sector in order and creating conditions for growth. We'll worry about our creditors afterwards," Cavallo told a press conference.

Menem's advisers argue that, given a minimum salary of around \$20 per month, union demands for higher wages could

be satisfied without running the risk of pricing Argentine goods out of world markets.

The incoming government hopes to work out a pact with the powerful labour groups to limit strikes for at least two years.

The only ones to lose under the new order would be public sector employees and companies that depend on the state as their main customer.

The Peronist plan would switch its support and subsidies to the most dynamic sectors of industry, particularly those that were export-oriented.

To demonstrate this, Menem has chosen as his future finance minister Miguel Roig, a top executive of Bunge and Born, one of the country's biggest conglomerates.

Once a symbol of the oligarchy

hated by Peronism's founder Juan Domingo Peron, Bunge and Born has given the movement a \$2.5 billion advance on future grain export taxes to help finance the early stages of the plan.

Roig is still putting the final touches to his plan. But details leaked to the press earlier this month showed it contained far-reaching tax and public sector reforms, sharp pay increases and the replacement of the battered austral currency, which has lost 65 per cent of its value against the dollar in the last four months.

For Menem, the flamboyant governor of an impoverished north-western province, a planned doubling of farm exports over the next few years would give sufficient capital to enable industry to switch its emphasis towards foreign trade.

Despite all-round increases, salaries would remain low in international terms, giving Argentina the edge as it competes in the world market for manufactured goods, including armaments, which Menem has pinpointed as one area which the country should make an all-out effort to encourage.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

UAE to raise cigarette import tax

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) will raise cigarette import tax from 20 to 50 per cent in a bid to boost non-oil revenues and fight smoking, a UAE official has said. He added that the federal cabinet approved the move and it will take effect in all seven emirates that make up the UAE after the ratification of President Zaid Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan. The UAE imports around \$60-\$70 million worth of cigarettes, mostly American and British brands.

Algeria, Belgium resolve gas dispute

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria and Belgium have formally ended a two-year row over the price of Algerian natural gas exports which marred relations between the two countries. The Algerian APS news agency said the Algerian state-emergency concern Sonatrach and Belgium's Distrigaz had signed an agreement under which the Belgian government undertook to pay immediately arrears of some \$390 million. APS said Distrigaz had also agreed to increase its purchases of liquefied natural gas to nearer the figure of five billion cubic metres allowed for in the original 1975 contract. Belgium stopped purchases of Algerian gas after Sonatrach declined to revise its prices in line with market conditions. Algeria, one of the world's top natural gas exporters, in January settled a similar dispute with France.

Saudis build refinery in Djibouti

PARIS (R) — Saudi Arabian investors are building a crude oil refinery in the Red Sea state of Djibouti for the reexport of petroleum products, Djibouti's Foreign Minister Moumin Bahdon Farah has said. Djibouti, which has no oil of its own, would get crude supplies for the 100,000 barrels-per-day refinery from oil producers in the region, mainly North Yemen, Farah told Reuters. He said his government had signed an agreement for the refinery, estimated to cost \$800 million and due for completion in three years. The minister did not give details of the Saudis involved but said the Djibouti government was not a partner. "There is very little demand for petroleum products in our country but we expect to reexport the finished products in the region," he said. The former French colony, strategically placed at the mouth of the Red Sea, aims to build up its warehouse role in the area and has expanded and modernised its port with Italian aid.

World Bank gives \$610m loan to India

WASHINGTON (AP) — The World Bank has approved \$610 million in new loans for India, including credits it said are intended to help "in developing an internationally competitive electronics industry" for that nation. Three loans totaling \$210 million will finance part of a \$450-million project to upgrade 80 enterprises in India's electronics and software industry as well as 30 training centres. Those centres are expected to train 4,000 workers each year for the electronics field, the World Bank said in a statement. Investments in the project are expected to generate a total of about 12,000 jobs, the statement said. Production of electronics products in India grew at an average annual rate of 22 per cent between 1980 and 1987, reaching nearly \$4 billion in 1987, the World Bank statement said. The three loans will go to the Industrial Bank of India, Industrial Credit and Investment Corp. of India Ltd. and the Indian government. The remainder of the financing will come from the Swiss Development Corp., the Japan Grant Facility and local sources, the announcement said.

Brazil liquidates brokerage houses

BRASILIA (AP) — The government has liquidated a sixth stock brokerage involved in an unprecedented financial scandal that rocked Brazilian markets and forced the government's top banker to resign.

Jose Tupy Caldas De Moura, the central bank's chief auditor for brokerage firms, announced the liquidation of the Progresso S.A. brokerage, a Sao Paulo-based firm.

Progresso S.A. had run up a debt of 3.6 million cruzados, an equivalent of \$2.58 million at the official exchange rate, during the scandal.

The liquidation, the sixth in two days since an investigation of 29 companies began, will probably be followed by others in the coming days, De Moura said in a news conference.

Last week, the central bank closed the brokerages of Ney Carvalho, Celton, Titular, Beta, and Capitanea Distribuidora, owned by Elmo Camoes, who quit Monday as head of the bank.

Brazil's equivalent of the U.S. Federal Reserve. The six stock firms had run up a total debt of 86.6 million cruzados, equal to nearly \$67 million, during a weeklong tailspin that saw share prices plunge by more than 34 per cent.

At the centre of the furor was super-investor Naji Nahas, a 42-year-old multimillionaire businessman and the no. 1 investor in Brazil's \$30 billion stock market.

Nahas bounced checks worth \$31 million to several brokerages for the purchase of stock futures, said the Brazilian Securities Commission, the rough equivalent of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

The commission said Nahas had borrowed heavily to invest in blue-chip stocks, taking advantage of a rule that allowed him to pay five days later. Meanwhile, he pumped up the stock's price by buying large amounts of common stock, so the shares he received later were worth more.

When banks restricted credit for that type of operation, Nahas' checks to several brokerages were returned for lack of funds.

The Monday after the scandal broke, the commission declared a one-day stock market holiday to prevent panic among investors, but the government refused to bail out the brokerages or the Rio exchange.

U.K. oil giants announce price cuts

LONDON (R) — Britain's major oil companies have announced petrol price cuts in line with a trend towards lower pump prices in other West European countries. British Petroleum Co. Plc. and the British subsidiaries of Exxon Corp. and Royal Dutch/Shell said they were cutting the cost of leaded premium grade petrol. The announcements followed last week's cut by Petrofin (U.K.) Ltd, which trimmed prices by six pence (9.3 cents) a gallon (4.5 litre), saying it wanted to pass on a fall in international oil prices to its customers. Esso said it had reduced its price by between 2.5 pence (3.88 cents) and 6.5 pence (10.1 cents) over the past few days, while B.P. said it would reduce the wholesale price of its petrol by 3.1 pence (4.8 cents) a gallon from midnight Tuesday. Shell is knocking 6.4 pence (9.9 cents) a gallon off its price, a spokesman said.

Morocco to reap 'excellent' harvest

RABAT (R) — Morocco will harvest an excellent cereals crop of about 7.25 million tonnes this season, according to figures published by the ministry of agriculture and agrarian reform. The harvest of hard and soft wheats, barley and maize will be the third best ever after a record 7.89 million tonnes last year and 7.57 million in 1986 compared to the ten-year average of 4.5 million tonnes. Fears of crop failures because of lack of rain in February and March proved unfounded after widespread and plentiful rainfall in April. The ministry said the harvest would include 1.64 million tonnes of hard wheat, 2.42 million tonnes of soft wheat, 2.8 million tonnes of barley and 390,000 tonnes of maize. Output of barley is substantially below last year's when it was 3.5 million tonnes of which some was exported. The ministry added that a record sugar beet crop was expected this season. Last year sugar output covered 65 per cent of national requirements.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, June 22, 1989				
Central Bank official rates				
U.S. dollar	Buy	Sell	French franc	85.0 - 85.9
Pound Sterling	567.0	569.7	Japanese yen (for 100)	399.5 - 403.5
Deutschemark	882.0	884.8	Dutch guilder	256.3 - 258.8
Swiss franc	288.5	291.4	Swedish crown	35.3 - 36.2
			Italian lira (for 100)	39.7 - 40.1
			Belgian franc (for 10)	137.9 - 139.3

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	June 17-21	June 10-14
Daily average	JD 1,642,225	JD 1,517,615
Total volume	JD 8,211,125	JD 6,071,615
Total shares	4,590,891	4,154,962
No. of contracts	4,727	4,127

Sectoral trading:

Industrial	JD 4,858,472	JD 4,490,239
	(59.2%)	(73.9%)
Financial	JD 2,222,010	JD 745,376
	(28.3%)	(12.3%)
Service	(10.9)	(12.5%)
Insurance	(1.7%)	(1.3%)
Share price index	130.00	129.0
No. of companies	63	62
Price movement (rise)	32	32
(decline)	20	14
(stable)	11	16

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.5555/65	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1905/15	Canadian dollar
	1.9515/25	Deutschemarks
	2.2005/15	Dutch guilders
	1.6850/60	Swiss francs
	40.82/87	Belgian francs
	6.6300/50	French francs
	1416.5/1417.5	Italian lire
	139.85/85	Japanese yen
	6.6175/6225	Swedish crowns
	7.1150/1200	Norwegian crowns
	7.6050/6100	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	370.00/370.40	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The Australian share market closed slightly easier in lacklustre trade amid negative sentiment over high interest rates. The All Ordinaries fell 2.9 to 1,510.5.

TOKYO — Index-linked buying by investment trust funds propelled share prices to close broadly higher in moderate trade. The Nikkei gained 205.74 to 33,530.71.

HONG KONG — Stocks closed lower in thin trade after early gains. The Hang Seng index fell 12.82 points to 2,219 amid uncertainty about events in China and about the property market.

SINGAPORE — Share prices fell marginally lower for the third consecutive day amid bouts of profit-taking in quiet trade. The Straits Times industrial index shed 4.14 to 1290.29.

BOMBAY — Share prices met with resistance at higher levels to closed mixed after the market opened bullish for the third day in a row. Associated Cement fell 4.5 rupees to 320.5 and Gujarat Fertiliser 1.25 to 158.75.

FRANKFURT — Shares ended firmer and dealers expected the rally to continue next week amid demand from domestic and international investors. The real-time 30-share DAX index closed up 7.37 points at 1,491.20.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed firmer but below highs. The all-share Swiss performance index closed 3.8 higher on the day and 22.5 on the week at 1,100.9 points.

PARIS — Share prices ended the first day of the new account strongly up, spurred by the spate of bullish corporate news from annual general meetings, by the lower dollar and Wall Street's gains. The 50-share bourse indicator ended 1.23 per cent up.

LONDON — Stocks were above the day's lows in cautious late business, after a 20-point gain on Wall Street gave the market some encouragement. By 1535 GMT, the FTSE 100 index was 14.3 off at 2,165.7.

NEW YORK — Wall Street stocks were at their session highs but pushing into resistance above the Dow 2500 level by midday. The Dow was ahead 21 points at 2538.

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Greek conservative leader fails to form coalition government

ATHENS (R) — Greece's conservative opposition leader, Constantine Mitsotakis, told reporters Friday he had failed to form a coalition government after three days of talks with a communist-led alliance.

Caretaker Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu, whose Socialist Party was beaten into a distant second in national elections Sunday, will now have three days to try to form a coalition government.

No party emerged with an absolute majority in the 300-seat parliament after the elections. Each of the top three parties is given a three-day period to try to forge a coalition before fresh elections are called.

"The sole responsibility for the fact that Greece is still being governed by PASOK (the Socialist Party), scandal-ridden and with Papandreu sick, lies with the left," Mitsotakis told a news conference after his three-day mandate expired.

Papandreu, 70, was taken to hospital Thursday night suffering from breathing problems and a cold. He had open-heart surgery in London in September.

Mitsotakis's centre-right New Democracy Party came first in the election, winning 145 seats, and has spent the past three days

trying to persuade a new communist alliance, with 28 seats, to form a coalition government. Mitsotakis and Communist alliance leader Harilaos Florakis have said they want immunity from prosecution lifted for PASOK ministers accused of involvement in multi-million-dollar scandals in the arms and banking industries.

Florakis has called for a government of national unity, comprising elements from the three main parties to rule Greece while a full investigation is carried out. The investigations could be followed by a new election later this year.

Papandreu, who has dominated Greek politics for the past eight years, said he, too, would seek a coalition with the communists during his three-day mandate to form a coalition, which has officially begun.

His Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) was soundly defeated in the election, emerging with only 125 seats, but Papandreu insists "democratic

and progressive" forces hold an absolute majority. A PASOK-Communist front would command 153 seats.

Political commentators give Papandreu little chance of wooing the Communists who were banned from 1945 to 1974 and last controlled ministries in a brief government of national unity in 1944.

Papandreu continues to be plagued by financial scandals and health problems as he struggles to maintain his grip on power.

He was taken to hospital suffering from a respiratory infection and doctors say he will stay in hospital for a few more days. In effect, he will be trying to form a coalition from his hospital bed.

Another bank scandal hit the Socialists Wednesday when U.S. agents arrested 13 officials of the state-run National Mortgage Bank of Greece in the United States, and charged the bank with helping clients evade taxes by illegally concealing some \$700 million.

Papandreu and his government have been savaged by scandals over the past 10 months, among them Papandreu's much-publicised extramarital affair with air hostess Dimitra Liani, 34.



Colombo taxis and three-wheelers observe a strike in support of striking government-employed bus drivers

Colombo flexes emergency muscles

COLOMBO (R) — The Sri Lankan government, armed with sweeping powers under emergency rule, has begun flexing its muscles, serving an ultimatum on striking bus workers to report for work Monday or lose their jobs.

Fifty thousand employees of the state-run Transport Board have been on strike since June 12 paralysing commuters in Colombo and virtually halting inter-provincial travel.

In a statement, the Transport Ministry told bus workers to report for work Monday, saying they would cease to be employees of the Transport Board if they did not.

The transport strike, which closed many schools and colleges and brought down attendance in offices, was a major provocation for the government to impose a state of emergency Tuesday.

The government believes

Sinhalese militants of the People's Liberation Front (JVP) are behind the strike, which looked like spreading to other sectors.

The emergency rules, lifted last January after more than five years, give the military powers to detain people without trial.

Diplomatic sources said they expected the government to get tough. "I am sure we will see some action in a day or two," said one Western diplomat. "The emergency is a formal warning, a signal that force will be applied."

On Thursday, the government operated some of the buses in Colombo with the help of army drivers.

The JVP, which has spurned government offers to talk peace, has increasingly made its presence felt in Colombo and has a firm grip over southern Sri Lanka, its major stronghold

where its supporters include Buddhist monks.

It is opposed to the presence of Indian troops fighting a separatist rebellion by the country's minority Tamils in the northeast.

In Colombo, it has fanned anti-Indian sentiment and called for the boycott of Indian goods.

The presence of Indian troops has become an emotive issue in Sri Lanka with wide support for President Ranasinghe Premadasa's call for withdrawal before the end of next month.

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has said a full withdrawal would have to be worked out jointly by the two sides, effectively rejecting the idea of a pull out by the end of July.

A Foreign Office spokesman in New Delhi said Thursday Gandhi had written to Premadasa that a full withdrawal had to be worked

out bilaterally, not unilaterally.

Premadasa's government has opened talks with the Tamil Tigers, the most powerful guerrilla group in the north, in the hope of bringing peace to Tamil-dominated areas of the island.

It received a jolt Thursday when another Tamil group, the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation Students (EROS), announced it was going back to the jungles to fight for liberation.

EROS, which is allied to the Tigers and has 13 members in parliament, accepted in part the India-Sri Lanka peace accord for the northeast that opened the way for Indian troops to come two years ago.

It said many of its members had been killed by an Indian-backed Tamil group that dominates the northeastern provincial council.

Burmese demonstrate after attack on opposition

BANGKOK (R) — Two thousand young people rallied in central Rangoon Friday after an unprecedented denunciation of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi by the military government, diplomats said.

They said tension in the capital of Myanma, formerly Burma, was high following the verbal attack at a government news conference Thursday in which a spokesman equated her party with the banned Communist Party and threatened action.

"The temperature is rising. I can't see either side backing down. It's getting more and more confrontational," said a Western diplomat contacted from Bangkok by telephone.

Witnesses to the gathering outside Rangoon general hospital Friday afternoon said some members of the crowd taunted truckloads of armed soldiers who sealed off roads in the area.

The witnesses said members of the crowd told them they had heard rumours that Aung San Suu Kyi was to address them. The crowd dispersed under a heavy tropical downpour. She did not turn up.

Sources at her National League for Democracy said they knew little of the gathering and said the 44-year-old politician had actually left in the morning for a two-day campaigning visit to Pegu, 70 kilometres north of Rangoon.

The attack by the government spokesman, part of which was



repeated in the official Working People's daily newspaper, marked the first time Aung San Suu Kyi or the Democracy League had been directly condemned.

She was briefly detained Wednesday after an incident in northern Rangoon in which one man was shot dead by security forces after a memorial ceremony for demonstrators killed during pro-democracy rallies a year ago.

The spokesman said the democracy league was deliberately dis-

rupting efforts by the military to create a democracy, accused Aung San Suu Kyi of denigrating Buddha and of "fomenting disturbances and encouraging the people and children to defy authority."

He said: "Any plan to defy authority is always followed by the building up of red power... this is the method of the BCP (Burma Communist Party)."

"If there are attempts to set up a power base — red power — then we shall have to use our power to prevent it. We shall have to crush those who disrupt the efforts to build a multi-party system either through legal means or by using our power."

"It was a no-holds-barred, don't-mess-around-with-us message," a senior Western diplomat commented.

The Democracy League, which says it has a membership of more than one million, grew out of the student-led mass popular movement that last year forced the collapse of the repressive single-party socialist state that had ruled the country for a decade.

The league has been the major force campaigning for unhindered political activity since the army seized power last September and promised to hold an election.

"The opposition, as far as the government is concerned, is one party (the league) and as far as anyone else is concerned, it's the only one," a diplomat said.

Nicaragua cardinal unable to set up talks

MANAGUA (AP) — Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo said Thursday he was unable to set up conciliation talks between Nicaragua and the United States, as requested by President Daniel Ortega.

Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto also Thursday accused the U.S. government of spreading "systematic lies" to discredit Nicaragua and its preparations for free elections in 1990.

Ortega publicly asked Obando y Bravo, the Roman Catholic archbishop of Managua, Monday to act as a go-between in setting up talks with U.S. President George Bush's administration to resolve differences with Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista government.

The cardinal said he would think about it, but State Department Spokesman Rudi Boone Tuesday rejected the offer. He said an improvement in relations would depend on a number of factors, including "an end to



Miguel Obando y Bravo

Nicaraguan support" for leftist guerrillas in El Salvador.

Boone, in Washington, also said Nicaragua should hold free and fair elections under international supervision and begin a genuine dialogue with opposition groups before the United States agrees to negotiations.

Referring to Boone's statement, Obando y Bravo wrote to Ortega, saying, "for the time being, it is not possible to enter into a process of mediation... because one of the parties has officially set conditions for the dialogue."

Alaska disaster ship heads for shipyard

VALDEZ, Alaska (AP) — The crippled tanker Exxon Valdez is about to begin a 4,023 kilometre journey, three months after being impaled on a reef, shredding its hull and causing the nation's worst oil spill.

The coast guard expects the vessel to have a safe trip after its scheduled departure Friday and cause no further environmental damage as it moves down the Pacific Ocean to a dry dock at San Diego.

Exxon Shipping Company President Frank Iarossi has said the ship will be rebuilt to original specifications, which include a single hull. The 300-metre tanker will undergo nearly a year of repairs costing more than \$25 million.

The coast guard Wednesday approved Exxon's towing proposal and issued the necessary permits. The ship will be repaired by the company that built it in 1986.

Coast guard officers will be aboard to monitor the vessel's movement as it leaves Prince William Sound and again as it enters the approach to San

Diego, Lieutenant Alan Carr, a coast guard spokesman, said Thursday.

"The commanding officer of the Marine Safety Office went out and did a final walk-through inspection yesterday," Carr said. "He made the decision everything was OK and gave his go-ahead that everything was ready to go."

Two oceangoing tugboats will tow the tanker with another tug and a salvage ship trailing behind, Exxon spokesman Joe Tucker said.

The convoy will move about 160 kilometres offshore at five knots, making it a 20-day trip to San Diego, officials said. "As I understand it, the Valdez will not be moving under its own power," Tucker said. "But they (engines) are capable of being fired up."

Repairing the tanker, which spilled almost 11 million gallons of north slope crude oil into Prince William Sound when it ran aground March 24, will require the replacement of 3,000 tons of steel.

Fear to aloofness in Asia over Chinese turmoil

By Larry Thorson
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Asian nations of many minds as they warily watch the turmoil in China.

In Hong Kong, the territory closest to China and soon to be joined with it, many people are profoundly shocked. Some are of a mind to run. Vietnam worries that China might try foreign military adventures to distract from its domestic woes. Taiwan has put its troops on alert and called for the overthrow of "communist tyranny" in China.

But Pakistan carried on business as usual, sending Foreign Secretary Humayun Khan to Peking Thursday.

Pakistan's relations with China always have been close, helping Pakistan to balance pressures from India and the Soviet Union.

"We have cordial relations with China... and it has been the case regardless of changes in China or Pakistan," said a Pakistani diplomat in Tokyo.

Indonesia says it will also go ahead with planned contacts with China on normalising diplomatic relations. Jakarta cut diplomatic ties in 1967 after a communist coup attempt.

Most Asian governments have combined expressions of

regret at the bloodshed in Peking with a refusal to lecture China about its internal affairs.

But among them, Japan is quietly flexing its economic muscle as China's main supplier of credit. Tokyo has not made up its mind what conditions to set, however, before reopening talks with Peking on a multi-billion-dollar loan programme.

The 5.7 million people of Hong Kong revert to Chinese rule in 1997. A poll in May, before the bloodshed in Peking, showed one-third of Hong Kong's people want to emigrate before China takes over. Britain, Hong Kong's colonial ruler, says it would be politically impossible to take in many of them.

China had been becoming a potent contributor to regional economic growth. Its open-door economic policy, in effect for 10 years, had drawn substantial Asian investment, much of it channelled through Hong Kong.

More than that, China's political stability of warming relations with the Soviet Union, India, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and other Asian countries had fostered a feeling that Asia could look forward to a time of peace, profits and problem-solving.

After the events in Peking,



A GROUP of children, tied together at the wrists are led for a walk past the Communist Party headquarters in Peking. The children are tied together to keep them from wandering into the streets when they go on walks. Life returned to normal in Peking as it entered the first month of martial law.

what comes now is a matter of deep concern to many Asians.

"A China with large sections of her people, including her best educated, at odds with the government means trouble, with people resentful, reforms stalled and economy stagnant," said Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew.

"Because of her size, such a China could create problems for herself and her neighbours in Asia."

Asian countries have important interests at stake in not rocking the boat in relations with China. Nations that have expressed regret and little more include India, Pakistan, Nepal, Indonesia, South Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines and Japan.

Japan justifies its low-keyed stance by recalling its own mis-

deeds in China.

"Japan invaded China 50 years ago," Prime Minister Sushiro Uno said, explaining why the government had not responded to calls from some business leaders and news media for harder action.

But huge Japanese loans to China are now up in the air, though the Foreign Ministry will not use the word "suspend" to describe Japan's action on the loans.

"We still have to make up our mind whether it is proper for us to go ahead," ministry spokesman Taizo Watanabe said Tuesday.

Japan supplies 90 per cent of the international credit China receives. The eruption in Peking stopped negotiations on a new series of credits that Japan pledged last year, amounting to

810 billion yen (\$5.6 billion) from 1990 to 1995.

Political repercussions

South Korea, enjoying booming trade with China despite the lack of diplomatic relations, hopes that its warming unofficial ties with Peking will encourage China to sway North Korea to a "moderate" course. South Korea has allowed its businessmen to return to China to portray itself as a reliable trading partner.

Vietnam reacted cautiously to the bloodshed in Peking, perhaps due to its centuries of difficulties with China. Chinese troops mounted an ill-fated invasion of Vietnam in 1979, trying to teach Hanoi a lesson after the Vietnamese army had entered Cambodia, and the two countries have had repeated

border clashes in the 1980s.

"Over the past 40 years, China has witnessed one political upheaval in every 10 years," Nguyen Co Thach, Vietnam's foreign minister and deputy premier, said in a recent interview in Hanoi with the Associated Press.

"What worries foreign countries is whether China would carry out outside adventures to solve its internal crisis."

China is a key player in the struggle over Cambodia's future, since Peking supports the rebels fighting the Vietnamese-backed Phnom Penh government. So far there has been no indication how the turmoil in China will affect moves towards peace in Cambodia.

If they did not criticise China sharply, elected governments in Asia still mourned the end of

to democracy in Peking.

"We are for democracy everywhere because we feel it is the best option," said Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, whose country fought a border war with China in 1962.

At stake for India now is progress to end territorial disputes on the 3,800-kilometre border with China. The two countries have border talks scheduled for June 30 in Peking.

In Taiwan, thoughts of eventual unification with China have been put aside for the time being.

"Only by toppling the communist tyranny can we reunify with China," said Premier Lee Huan, calling on all countries to help bring the downfall of what he termed "this vicious

COLUMN

Indian just won't keep quiet

NEW DELHI (R) — A 57-year-old Indian broke the record for non-stop talking Tuesday but still has some things he wants to get off his chest. 11 days after he began a marathon lecture at a south India beach resort, S.E. Jayaraman, who talked his way into the 1987 edition of the Guinness Book of World Records with a 200-hour monologue, was still chattering away after 270 hours at an hotel in Madras. The Fris Trust of India (FTI) reported he was talking on for 360 hours. Jayaraman was outspoken last year by announcing Indian, N.S. Viswanathan, who soliloquised for 260 hours to win a mention in the 1988 edition. Jayaraman is allowed to shut in for 15 minutes every three hours under the Guinness guidelines. Attending doctors said he is in very good health.

Starr will sing, play drums again

NEW YORK (AP) — Ringo Starr will play drums and sing on his first tour since the Beatles broke up nearly 20 years ago, the New York Times reports. Starr today planned to announce details of the tour, which starts July 23 in Dallas, Texas, and ends Sept. 3 in Los Angeles. He will be accompanied in a nine-piece band by guitarist Joe Walsh, who produced Starr's last album, "old wave" in 1983; Billy Preston, the organist who played with the Beatles on the "Let It Be" album; former members of the band and Clarence Clemons, the saxophonist in Bruce Springsteen's E Street band.

Dancer wants last waltz with Diana

LONDON (AP) — Wayne Sleep, the ballet star who danced with the Princess of Wales on stage three years ago, hopes to crown his career sharing "the last waltz with Diana." The princess, a fan and former pupil, will be in the audience for a gala charity performance of Sleep's current show. The dancer recently announced that he will retire in the fall and concentrate on acting. Unlike the night in 1985 when the couple danced a high-kicking waltz at Covent Garden, no secret preparations for a royal turn have been made. Sleep, however, is ready to dance. "It would be my final glory to have my old partner back again," he told Press Association Wednesday. "It would be a dream come true if Diana could join me for one last waltz." When the two have met in receiving lines, Sleep said, "Diana has always said, 'Let's do it again.' Unfortunately, we haven't got round to it."

Toy car triggers adult collision

CLACKAMAS, Oregon (AP) — A driver who caused a three-car collision did not have a license to show a sheriff's deputy and now he will not be eligible for one until the year 2003. This is when Justin Aronson turns 16. The two-year-old boy drove his battery-powered toy car onto a suburban road Sunday and triggered a collision by drivers in adult-sized cars who tried to avoid him, said Clackamas County Sheriff's deputy Michael F. Helmstadt. Two cars and a small pickup truck were damaged but no one was hurt, Helmstadt said. Justin's father, Daniel, said Justin drove off in his toy car while he was cleaning the family's garage. The father said he found Justin just after the accident and took the boy and his toy car home. Helmstadt wrote in his report that he interviewed everybody involved in the accident except for Justin. "He couldn't talk yet," Helmstadt noted.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN	MAX	Weather
AMSTERDAM	14	22	Cloudy
ATHENS	19	32	Clear
BANGKOK	25	34	Clear
Buenos Aires	10	18	Clear
CAIRO	23	33	Clear
CHICAGO	23	33	Clear
COPENHAGEN	13	27	Clear
FRANKFURT	15	22	Clear
GENEVA	16	25	Clear
HONG KONG	25	32	Clear
ISTANBUL	15	24	Clear
LONDON	14	24	Clear
LOS ANGELES	18	28	Clear
MADRID	17	32	Clear
MEXICO	20	35	Clear
MONTREAL	22	32	Clear
MOSCOW	15	27	Clear
NEW DELHI	27	39	Clear
NEW YORK	21	30	Clear
OSAKA	23	32	Clear
PARIS	15	24	Clear
TOKYO	19	27	Clear
VIENNA	16	27	Clear